

XXXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 347.]

85. *Borchgrevink's 'First on the Antarctic Continent.'*

[First on the Antarctic Continent, being an account of the British Antarctic Expedition 1898-1900. By C. E. Borchgrevink, F.R.G.S. London, 1901: George Newnes. 1 vol. 8vo. 333 pp. Price 10s. 6d. net.]

We have already remarked on Mr. Borchgrevink's paper in the 'Geographical Journal' (see above, p. 154), which contained the first account of his Antarctic Expedition. We have now the full narrative before us, in which there are many further allusions to birds, a whole chapter being devoted to the Penguins. It is evident that Penguin's flesh and eggs supply in 'Antarctis' the fresh and welcome diet that bear's flesh gives to explorers in 'Arctis.' *Eudyptes adeliae* is the Penguin of Victoria Land, and breeds there in enormous abundance. In half an hour 435 eggs were collected by members of the Expedition. Other birds nesting there were the Antarctic Skua and two Petrels—*Oceanites oceanicus* and *Pagodroma nivea*. But we shall know more about the birds when the collection (now at the British Museum) is worked out. Meanwhile Mr. Borchgrevink's field-notes are of much interest. But he (or his printer) should have taken the trouble to spell the scientific names more correctly.

86. *Chapman on the Genus Sturnella.*

[A Study of the Genus *Sturnella*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. xiii. pp. 297-320, 1900.]

Mr. Chapman has made a careful study of the Meadow-Starlings of the genus *Sturnella*, which range over North and Central America down to Colombia and Guiana. In the course of his researches he has examined 734 specimens. Like other forms that occupy a wide area, *Sturnella* is subject to considerable variations in colour and size, which have induced the author to recognise six local subspecies, besides the typical form of *Sturnella magna*. The vexed question of the relationship of the western *Sturnella neglecta* to *S. magna*

typica is discussed at full length, and the complete inter-gradation of these forms in certain localities is conclusively shown.

87. *Chun on the German Deep-sea Expedition.*

[Aus den Tiefen des Weltmeeres: Schilderungen von der deutschen Tiefsee-Expedition. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1900. 1 vol. 550 pp. Price 18s.]

This is a well-written and profusely illustrated popular account of the German Deep-sea Expedition of 1898-99, which can be thoroughly recommended to those who can read German. The route was by way of the Atlantic to nearly as far south as Enderby Land, and thence back by the Indian Ocean and the Suez Canal. The biology introduced into the work mostly refers to marine Invertebrates, but there are many allusions to sea-birds, especially to those of the Antarctic Ocean, and some excellent views of Penguins and their breeding-colonies in Kerguelen and other oceanic islands.

88. *Dwight on the Plumages of Passerine Birds.*

[The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York. By Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. xiii. pp. 73-360, pls. i-vii., 1900.]

In this long paper Dr. Dwight has endeavoured to demonstrate the principles underlying the moult and change of plumage of birds, as evidenced by several thousands of examples of Passerine species from New York contained in his own collection. In the place of relying on theories, founded, as they often are, on unreliable information, he takes his stand on the firm basis of facts, which he warns us must be interpreted aright to be of the least value. There seems to him to have been hitherto no serious attempt to link together the successive plumages attained before maturity, and certainly no endeavour to group North-American birds according to their plumages; such grouping he therefore desires to effect. Accordingly he classifies them in ten sections, and subsequently gives full details for each species.

The methods of determining a bird's age and sex are, moreover, taken into consideration, while the sequence of the plumages is traced up to the second "prenuptial moult"; theories of colour-change are also reviewed, and out-of-door observations upon the moult and the subsequent migration are recorded. A bibliography and seven plates add to the value of this article.

89. *Fisher's Reminiscences of a Falconer.*

[Reminiscences of a Falconer. By Major Charles Hawkins Fisher. London, 1901. 8vo. Pp. i-xiv, 1-188. Price 10s. 6d. net.]

Major Fisher gives an interesting account of his experiences, and of the various amateurs and professionals whom it has been his fortune to meet in the pursuit of the above-mentioned sport. To the whole are prefixed essays from his own pen on the revival of Faconry and on modern Falconry, while a memoir of William Brodrick, one of the authors of 'Falconry in the British Islands,' is appended. More than half of the illustrations consist of portraits of devotees of hawking.

90. *Godman's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[Biologia Centrali-Americana; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman. (Zoology.) Parts CLXI. & CLXII. 1901. (Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.)]

In these two Parts of the 'Biologia,' pp. 89-128 of the letterpress of the third volume of the Birds are contained. They continue the account of the Diurnal Birds of Prey of Central America, and relate to the subfamilies Aquilinæ, Milvinae, Micrasturinae, Herpetherinae, Falconinae, and Polyborinae.

Good coloured figures are given of *Micrastur mirandollei*, *M. amaurus*, and *Falco deiroleucus*.

91. *Goeldi's 'Birds of Brazil,' Vol. II.*

[Monographias Brasileiras. E. Goeldi. As Aves do Brasil. Segunda parte. Rio de Janeiro, 1900. 1 vol. Pp. 311-664, and index.]

After waiting for some years (see 'Ibis,' 1895, p. 282) we are

much pleased to receive a copy of the second and concluding part of our friend Dr. Goeldi's little book on the Birds of Brazil. It is essentially a popular compilation, but contains many remarks of great interest, the results of the author's personal observation, and will prove a most useful guide to the study of the birds of tropical America. We need hardly point out the enormous extent of the work still to be done before we can be fully acquainted with the birds of Brazil, and we trust that Dr. Goeldi's volumes may induce many of its inhabitants to take up the study of their country's avifauna.

92. *Grant on Additions to the List of Arabian Birds.*

[Further Additions to the List of Birds of Southern Arabia. By W. R. Ogilvie Grant. Nov. Zool. xiii. p. 54.]

Mr. Grant adds *Amydrus tristrami* and *Rhynchostruthus percivali* to the list of South-Arabian birds, from examples procured in Hadramaut by Mr. G. W. Bury. It is obvious that the former is identical with *Amydrus hadramauticus* of Lorenz and Hellmayr (J. f. O. 1901, p. 231), who have lately published a description of Mr. Bury's whole collection.

93. *Grinnell on the Birds of Kotzebue Sound.*

[Pacific Coast Avifauna. No. 1. Birds of the Kotzebue Sound Region, Alaska. By Joseph Grinnell. Published by the Cooper Ornithological Club of California. Royal 8vo. 1900.]

This memoir is the first of a series of publications issued by the "Cooper Ornithological Club" as papers meriting special consideration, their ordinary organ being 'The Condor.' It contains an account of the collection of birds and eggs made by Mr. Grinnell during an expedition to the district of Kotzebue Sound, in Northern Alaska, just below the Arctic Circle. The party left San Francisco in May 1898 and passed the following winter and spring in the interior, on the Kowak River, whence various excursions were made. Collections were gathered at all the points visited, and about 700 bird-skins and as many eggs were preserved.

Mr. Grinnell's field-notes on the birds met with are very full and of much interest. He has made 17 additions to the list of the birds of the district, amongst which is a new subspecies of *Lanius borealis*, which he proposes to call *L. b. invictus*, being apparently the western representative form. Other interesting species met with were *Somateria v-nigrum*, *Fratercula corniculata* (breeding in numbers on Chamisso Island), *Philacte canagica* with its eggs, *Aphriza virgata* in full breeding-plumage, and *Cyanecula suecica*, which appeared to be nesting.

After the field-notes follows a useful list of publications relating to the ornithology of Kotzebue Sound, and a "check-list" of the birds as yet ascertained to occur in the district—150 in all.

94. *Hall on the Distribution of Australian Birds.*

[The Distribution of Australian Birds.—Additional Records. By Robert Hall. Victorian Nat. xvii. pp. 59-63, 1900.]

Mr. Hall records a number of species additional to the areas 3, 6, 8, and 9 into which he has divided Australia in his "Key" to Australian birds. To the avifauna of area 9 (Western Australia) numerous additions are made.

95. *Hartert on the Birds of the Key Islands and Ceram-Laut.*

[On the Birds of the Key and South-east Islands and of Ceram-Laut. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. p. 1.]

This is the first part of a review of the birds of the Key Islands, the South-east Islands between Key and Ceram, and of Ceram-Laut, an outlier of Ceram, based on collections lately transmitted to Tring by Mr. H. Kühn. After a description of the various localities and remarks on their physical conditions, the Pittidæ and Psittaci (14 species in all) are enumerated, with appropriate comments. Zoologically these islands all belong to the Moluccan subdivision of the Papuan Subregion, "having very few specially Papuan land-forms."

96. *Hartert on the Brehm Collection.*

[The Brehm Collection. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. p. 33.]

It will be a satisfaction to all ornithologists to learn that the great collection of birds (some 10,000 specimens) formed by Christian Ludwig Brehm has found a resting-place in the Tring Museum. It has been "on sale" ever since the death of Brehm in 1861, and has remained packed up at Bentendorf, subject to the ravages of beetles, moths, and mildew. Now the labelled specimens will be carefully preserved and rendered available for scientific examination. Ornithologists may not at all agree with Brehm's notions of species and subspecies, but it is, of course, highly desirable that the types of his descriptions should be preserved, and every one will be alike grateful to Mr. Rothschild for having undertaken this serious task.

A critical examination of the Brehm Collection has been undertaken by Mr. Hartert and Herr Pfarrer Kleinschmidt, the results of which will be published in the 'Novitates Zoologicæ.' The present article contains the first of the series, which relates to forms of *Corvus corax*. Of these the authors recognise ten. Two of them are now provided with new subspecific names, viz. *Corvus corax caurienensis* and *C. c. hispanus*. But of many previously named northern forms of the Raven (*C. sibiricus*, *C. ussurianus*, *C. kamtschaticus*, &c.), specimens have not yet been examined, so there are other subspecies to come!

97. *Hartert on Javan Birds.*

[Some Notes on Java Birds. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. p. 49.]

After some preliminary remarks on the sources of our knowledge of the birds of Java, Mr. Hartert gives notes on ten species. In the course of them he separates from the typical forms *Tiga javanensis exsul* of Bali, *Sasia abnormis magnirostris* of Nias, *Aracnothera longirostris prillwitzii* of Java, and *Dicaeum sollicitans* of Java.

98. *Loomis on Californian Water-birds.*

[California Water-birds. No. IV. Vicinity of Monterey in Autumn. No. V. Vicinity of Monterey in May and early June. By Leverett M. Loomis. Proc. California Acad. Sci. ser. 3, Zool. ii. nos. 3, 5, pp. 277-322, 349-363, 1900.]

We have now received some further numbers of Mr. Loomis's 'California Water-birds' (see 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 125), the subject being one to which, as it would appear, the author devotes special attention. Shearwaters travel south on the Monterey coast in enormous flocks. On Sept. 23rd not less than a quarter of a million "passed in review during two hours and a half." No. V. is devoted to the birds observed off Monterey in May and June. A fine adult male *Xema sabinii* was shot on May 12th.

99. *Macoun on Canadian Birds.*

[Catalogue of Canadian Birds. Part I. Water-birds, Gallinaceous Birds, and Pigeons. By John Macoun. 8vo. Ottawa, 1900. Pp. i-viii, 1-218. Price 10 cents.]

This catalogue, published by the authorities of Geological Survey of Canada, under the editorship of the late Dr. G. M. Dawson, contains not only a list of species, arranged according to the A. O. U. Check-list, but a considerable amount of information as to their distribution and habits. The two volumes of the complete work will treat of the birds of the whole Dominion, including those of Newfoundland, Greenland, and Alaska, and will be a most welcome addition to the scanty number of ornithological works referring to that portion of the globe. The author wishes his book to be practical and popular, but has taken care to make it also scientific, while he has gathered information from all possible sources, and has himself visited as many parts of the country as possible. Mr. W. Spreadborough has been retained to assist him with the same object in view, and various correspondents have been laid under contribution. The Orders treated in this Part are *Pygopodes*, *Longipennes*, *Tubinares*, *Steganopodes*, *Anseres*, *Herodiones*, *Paludicolæ*, *Limicolæ*, *Gallinæ*, and *Columbæ*, the specimens in the local Museum being duly noticed in their place.

100. *Martorelli on Dichroism in the Herons.*

[Nota Ornitologica sopra l'*Ardeola idæ* (Hartlaub) e cenno sul dichroismo di varii Ardeidi. Del socio Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xxxix. 1900.]

Prof. Martorelli shows that *Ardeola idæ* of Madagascar has a pure white as well as a coloured phase of plumage, and takes the opportunity of enumerating the other known cases in which this phenomenon, which he calls 'leucochromism,' has been found to exist in the Herons.

101. *Paddock on the Birds of Shropshire.*

[Catalogue of Shropshire Birds. By G. H. Paddock. 8vo. Newport, Salop: Lunn, 1897. Pp. 104.]

Though published so long ago as 1897, a copy of this list of the Birds of Shropshire has only lately reached us. It gives short notes on the distribution or occurrence of 231 species, and is prefaced by a very brief introduction on the character and scenery of the county.

102. *Palmer and Olds on the Game-Laws of the U.S.A.*

[Laws regulating the Transportation and Sale of Game. By T. S. Palmer and H. W. Olds. Bull. U.S. Dept. Agric. no. 14, 1900.]

The title of this work speaks for itself, and it is only necessary to add that, besides a digest of the various State Laws upon the subject, which are supplemented by an Act of Congress prohibiting the wrongful shipment of the birds, general discussions are given upon such subjects as close-seasons, partial protection, limited bags, and hunting-licences, with a section specially devoted to Big Game.

103. *Rothschild and Hartert's Notes on Papuan Birds.*

[Notes on Papuan Birds. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. viii. p. 55.]

After remarks on their views as to subspecies, and some interesting extracts from Doherty's letters about certain of the localities which he had visited, the authors discuss the Papuan Pittidæ and Psittaci, as illustrated by specimens

recently received at Tring from the above-named collector and others. Seven Papuan Pittas are recognised, of which *P. mackloti aruensis* is a new subspecies. Ninety-five species and subspecies of Psittaci are reviewed, and the following forms are described as new subspecies:—*Pitta mackloti aruensis* from Wokan, *Lorius lory major* from Waigiu, *Trichoglossus hæmatodus intermedius* from Kaiser-Willhelm's-Land, *Nasiterna salvadorii* from New Guinea, and *Ectectus pectoralis solomonensis* from the Solomons.

Many forms hitherto held to be good species are reduced to the rank of subspecies by the present authors' mode of treatment. In fact two categories of forms are recognised—(a) those with strong specific characters = *species*, and (b) those with slight or undecided specific characters = *subspecies*. The old notion, that subspecies were local forms between which intermediate forms were to be found, is entirely rejected. We fear that this system, if carried out, will lead to enormous alterations in nomenclature. Besides, in many cases, it is very difficult to decide whether a form should be treated as “species” or a “subspecies.” There is, in fact, no rule on the subject. It is a matter of opinion.

104. *Salvadori on Birds from Patagonia.*

[Contribuzione all' Avifauna dell' America Australe (Patagonia, Terra del Fuoco, Isola degli Stati, Isole Falkland). Per Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genov. ser. 2, xx. pp. 609-634, 1900.]

In this paper we have an account of the collection of birds made by an Italian expedition in 1881-82, under the command of Lieut. Bove, in Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, and the Falkland Islands. It contains 224 examples, referable to 79 species, and is now deposited in the Museo Civico of Genoa. Our most recent authority on this subject is Oustalet's List, in the sixth volume of the 'Mission Scientifique du Cap Horn' (1891), and the author here follows Oustalet's arrangement. The species are mostly well known, but two of them, *Phrygilus princetonianus* and *Geositta brevirostris*, have only recently been described by Mr. Scott, and two others (*Thinocorus orbignyianus* and *Spermophila cærulescens*)

are new to the Patagonian list, while *Falco cassini*, *Agriornis leucura*, and *Zenaida auriculata* are likewise of interest.

105. *Salvadori on Birds from Portuguese Guinea.*

[Uccelli della Guinea Portoghese raccolti da Leonardo Fea studiati da Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genov. ser. 2, xx. pp. 749-790, 1901.]

Comparatively little work has been done with regard to the birds of "Portuguese Guinea" (which would be more properly called Portuguese Senegambia, as it is far away from what is generally known as the Guinea Coast), although the Maison Verreaux had once an active correspondent at Bissao, after whom *Circaëtus beaudouini* was named. Count Salvadori now writes on a collection formed in this district by the well-known Italian traveller Fea. It contains 410 specimens, which are referred to 146 species. Amongst these is a new Honey-guide (*Indicator feæ*) and a new Bulbul (*Turdinus puveli*). *Laniarius turatii* was known previously only by the typical specimen in the Turati Museum at Milan, and the European Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*) had not previously been recorded from so far south.

106. *Seebohm's ' Monograph of the Thrushes.'*

[A Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes. By the late Henry Seebohm. Edited and completed (after the Author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part XI. Imperial 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1901. Price 36s.]

This posthumous work of our much-esteemed friend and associate is now nearing completion. The 11th Part contains excellent coloured figures of the following species:—

Merula celebensis.	Merula mindorensis.
— javanica.	— cardis.
— vitiensis, ♂ et ♀.	— reevei.
— layardi, ♂ et ♀.	— unicolor.
— vinitineta.	— aurantia.
— xanthopus.	— nigriceps.

In spite of the efforts of several skilful authorities, the exact identification of Horsfield's *Turdus javanicus* appears

still to remain uncertain, no specimens actually agreeing with Horsfield's types having been since obtained. The higher peaks of Java require further examination by some enterprising ornithologist.

107. *Seebohm's 'Birds of Siberia.'*

[The Birds of Siberia: a Record of a Naturalist's Visits to the Valleys of the Petchora and Yenesei. By Henry Seebohm. London, 1901. 8vo. Pp. i-xix, 1-504. Price 12s. net.]

This volume consists of a reprint, with certain alterations, of the two well-known volumes by our much-deplored friend the late Henry Seebohm, which gave accounts of his journeys to the Petchora and Yenesei Rivers in 1875 and 1877 respectively.

The Editor—in whom we recognise a well-known naturalist and fellow member of our Union—has carried out his somewhat difficult task with great ability, retaining almost untouched the nomenclature and ornithology of the original work, while omitting passages here and there which seemed unnecessary to a combined edition, or in which the information had been superseded on more accurate observation. In particular many long footnotes on geographical distribution have been left out, as well as certain claims to priority, which the author himself would, no doubt, have withdrawn had he lived to carry out his intention of personally superintending the reissue of his work. Russian phrases, moreover, are translated with greater correctness, while words in that language are printed in the ordinary way, and no longer have the syllables disconnected by hyphens.

It is not, however, for the ornithological portions alone that we gladly welcome this book in its new form, but also for the excellent idea it gives of the character of the country and of its people; the description of the breaking up of the ice on the Petchora in particular being a most admirable account of a phenomenon seldom witnessed by Europeans.

Attention has duly been drawn by the Editor to the discovery of the nest and eggs of the Curlew-Sandpiper by

Mr. Popham, but room might have been found to refer at least to those of the Bar-tailed Godwit and Pomatorhine Skua, as found by the same gentleman on the Yenesei.

The well-known illustrations of the original work have been retained, and a useful map has been added to show the route taken upon each journey.

108. *Sharpe's Edition of White's 'Selborne.'*

[The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne and a Garden Kalendar. By the Reverend Gilbert White, M.A. Edited by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., with an Introduction by the Very Reverend S. Reynolds Hole, Dean of Rochester, and numerous Illustrations by J. G. Keulemans, Herbert Railton, and Edmund J. Sullivan. In two volumes. 1900. London: S. T. Freemantle. Price £3 net.]

More than one hundred editions of the 'Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne' have now been issued, and it has become a serious question whether further additions to the list are desirable, especially as the more modern editions show in certain cases little if any improvement upon the old. Nevertheless, the present sumptuous volumes, with their clear print and profuse illustrations, will undoubtedly prove acceptable to the wealthy naturalist, though the true lover of Gilbert White will perforce be obliged to regret that the impossibility of obtaining a genuine portrait of the author has induced the publisher to insert such lamentable caricatures in its place as are to be found in some of the pictures. For this, however, as things stand at the present day, the Editor can hardly be held liable, and we are grateful to Dr. Sharpe for extending his researches to White's original letters preserved in the British Museum, and for restoring the passages which relate to the birds of Gibraltar sent home by his brother John White. These were naturally omitted by the author, after due consideration, as being unsuitable to a Natural History of his own district, but none the less are they of great interest to us of a later day, while they serve to demonstrate his wide grasp of ornithological subjects.

The Editor is careful to note where discrepancies occur

between the published texts and the manuscripts, especially where White himself has thought good to divide a letter into two portions or has joined two letters together, where he has added new matter, and where a letter is undated or does not agree with the date usually accepted. In the last case it may be suggested that the date in the manuscript may denote when the letter was actually written, and the date published when the letter was finally despatched—a very different matter in those days of difficulty of communication.

Dr. Sharpe has done wisely to give frequent excerpts from the notes in the well-known editions of Jardine, Bennett, Harting, and Bell, the more so as the last-named had access to many private family documents.

The Editor spent several weeks at Selborne in preparation for his work, and in some cases obtained further information from the members of the White family. We hardly think, however, that a Fellow of Oriel and a Proctor of his University should be represented as so much of a recluse, and we could wish that some really capable person had been selected to annotate the "Garden Kalendar," now printed for the first time. Dean Hole, moreover, might have employed his well-known talents to much better purpose than he has done in the Introduction to the same.

Two facsimiles of letters by Gilbert White give pleasing evidence of his skilful penmanship, while Appendices on the Geology by Mr. Andrews and on the Bibliography by Mr. Sherborn are welcome additions to our knowledge of those subjects.

109. *Shelford on the Museum of Sarawak.*

[Report on the Sarawak Museum. By R. Shelford, B.A., Curator of the Sarawak Museum. February, 1901. Pp. 1-31.]

This report on the Sarawak Museum gives a good account of the progress of the institution under its present curator, who is well known to us by his letters and papers. In reference to birds, he tells us of seven species to be added to the Bornean avifauna—*Cotile riparia*, *Hirundo striolata*, *Pratincola maura*, *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*, *Lepterochus*

asha, *Spatula clypeata*, and *Fuligula cristata*. Two specimens of the rare Snipe-billed Godwit (*Macrorhamphus taczanowskii*), killed in Borneo, are in the collection. The typical specimens of two species of *Philestoma* (*P. maxwelli* and *P. saravacensis*), described by Mr. E. Bartlett, the former curator, have been examined and referred, the first to *P. pyrrhopterum* and the second to *P. velatum*. A list of birds' eggs and birds' nests in the Museum is given, containing those of 55 species.

110. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Woodpeckers.*

[On the Osteology of the Woodpeckers. By R. W. Shufeldt. Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. xxxix. pp. 578-622.]

Dr. Shufeldt here gives us his views upon the relationships of the Woodpeckers, as formed from the examination of the bones of all the genera found in North America, with due reference to those absent from the fauna of that country. The skull is considered separately from the remainder of the skeleton, and several illustrations are added as an assistance to the understanding of the text. The author agrees with many writers in considering the *Pici* as nearly akin to the *Passeres*, *Picumnus* forming a connecting link; and he thinks that the two groups have diverged from a common stock, though the former have become highly specialized and much modified. In short, his remarks are hardly of a novel nature, and it is for the wealth of anatomical detail that the paper is chiefly remarkable.

111. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Striges.*

[On the Osteology of the *Striges* (*Strigidae* and *Bubonidae*). By R. W. Shufeldt. Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. xxxix. pp. 665-722.]

This paper, with its full technical details, may be regarded as an expansion of a former memoir by Dr. Shufeldt on *Speotyto*, to which, however, so many additions have been made that it now presents a very general view of the comparative osteology of the Owls of America, every genus and nearly every species having been carefully examined. The

opinions of other writers are, moreover, taken into consideration. The conclusions at which the author arrives are that the Owls show no special relationship to the Accipitres, but are allied remotely to the Caprimulgi; that to the latter *Strix pratincola* approaches most nearly, with *Asio wilsonianus* next in order; and that *Speotyto*, *Surnia*, and *Micropallus* are somewhat closely inter-related. The families *Strigidae* and *Bubonidae* are accepted for *Strix* and the remaining forms respectively. Most of the text-figures and all those on the plates are new.

112. *Shufeldt on the Sand-Grouse.*

[On the Systematic Position of the Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles; Syrrhaptes*). By R. W. Shufeldt. American Naturalist, xxxv. pp. 11-16, 1901.]

The author agrees with Selater and others, who assign to the Sand-Grouse an intermediate position between the *Galli* and the *Columbæ*, and place them in a Suborder Pterocletes with the single family *Pterocletidae*. He has examined bones of *Syrrhaptes parodoxus* and entire skeletons of *Pterocles arenarius*, one of the latter being figured. The skull, with its Tetraonine characteristics, forbids the inclusion of these birds in the *Columbæ*, while the Columbine sternum and pectoral limb equally oppose their classification with the *Galli*.

113. *Stejneger on the Wheatears of North America.*

[On the Wheatears (*Saxicola*) occurring in North America. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxiii. p. 473.]

It is here sought to prove that there are two forms or subspecies of the Wheatear which occur in North America, one in the North-east and the other in the North-west. The larger form (*Saxicola ænanthe leucorrhou*) breeds in Greenland and in the adjacent parts of N. America, migrating to Western Europe and West Africa. The smaller (*S. ænanthe typica*) breeds in Alaska and migrates into Eastern Asia. Lord Clifton (*Ibis*, 1879, p. 368) has already called attention to the fact that examples of both these forms occur on the south coast of England.

114. *Stuart Baker on Indian Ducks.*

[Indian Ducks and their Allies. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S. Bombay Natural History Society's Journal, 1898-1900.]

Mr. Stuart Baker has kindly sent us a complete copy (provided with a new titlepage) of his series of papers on the Indian Anatidæ and their allies, which have appeared during the past two years in the 'Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.' They contain a good account of the species of this favourite group and many excellent field-notes, the results of the author's long experience in India. A series of coloured plates, drawn by Keulemans, illustrate the following species:—*Cygnus olor*, *C. minor* (i. e. *C. bewicki*), *Anser albifrons*, *A. indicus*, *Dendrocycna fulva*, *Eunetta falcata*, *Nettion albigulare*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Nyroca baeri*, *Erismatura leucocephala*, and *Merganser serrator*. We are not surprised to see that the author refuses to follow the British Museum Catalogue in separating "*Merganser comatus*" from *M. castor*.

In a postscript Mr. Stuart Baker allows that, so far as we know at present, *Cygnus bewicki* has never occurred in India.

115. *Zoological Address-Book.*

[Zoologisches Adressbuch—Namen und Adressen der lebenden Zoologen, Anatomen, Physiologen, und Zoopalæontologen, so wie der künstlerischen und technischen Hülfskräfte. Teil ii. enthaltend die seit September 1895 eingetretenen Veränderungen (Todesfälle, Ergänzungen, Adressenänderungen). Herausgegeben im Auftrage der deutschen zoologischen Gesellschaft von R. Friedländer & Sohn. Berlin, 1901. 1 vol. 8vo. 518 pp. Price 6s.]

Messrs. Friedländer and Son have kindly sent us a copy of the recently issued Supplement to the Zoological Address-Book of 1895, a most useful publication, with which most of our readers are, no doubt, well acquainted. The Supplement carries on, augments, and corrects the information contained in the original volume with matter that has accumulated during the past five years. That it is free from errors and omissions no one would venture to assert, but

when we consider the difficulty of obtaining the exact names and addresses of the zoologists scattered over the whole of the civilized world, and of ascertaining the composition of the staffs of the numerous museums, academies, and other scientific institutions, it is a matter of wonder that the task has been so well performed. The Address-Book has the further merit of being legibly printed and of being sold at a price which renders it accessible to the "working man."

XXXVIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed to "The Editors":—

SIRS,—I have the great pleasure to record the finding of two nests and eggs of the Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) in Somersetshire in May 1897 and May 1899 by Mr. Charles E. Nipper, of Axbridge, Somerset. The first nest was discovered at an isolated spot called Callow Rocks, and contained four eggs. The second nest was found on the highest point of the Mendips, Blackdown, and this also contained four eggs.

Both nests were rudely constructed, the first being half-way down a precipitous cliff and the second amongst some boulders on the ground.

In each case the female bird was seen and recognised as the Honey-Buzzard.

Yours &c.,

St. Albans, Herts,

W. PERCIVAL WESTELL, M.B.O.U.

March 14th, 1901.

SIRS,—In the April number of 'The Ibis' for this year, p. 227, there is a remark about Waikthlatingmayalwa in the Great Chaco being the most southern locality where *Formicivora strigilata* has been found. This statement is not quite correct, as the species had already been noticed from San Lorenzo, in the Argentine province of Jujuy, where it was obtained by Dr. Borelli [Boll. Mus. Tor. N. 292 (1897), p. 22; N. 378 (1900), p. 9]. In the latter reference